

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication setting management system for distributing communication characteristics setting to a plurality of communication entities, comprising:
- setting template entry/edit means for entering or editing a setting template that collects contents to be set for the communication entities, with reference to information on a concrete method of setting the communication entities;
- setting template storing means for storing the setting template entered or edited by the setting template entry/edit means;
- application rule entry/edit means for entering or editing application rules prescribing rules of which setting template is to be applied to a communication having what kind of attribute;
- application rule storing means for storing the application rule input or edited by the application rule entry/edit means; and
- retrieval and response function means for selecting a corresponding application rule from the application rule storing means in accordance with the attribute of a destination communication entity to distribute the setting, reading from the setting template storing means a setting template having a setting template name specified by the application rule, and distributing the read setting template to the communication entity.

2. The communication setting management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

setting template collective entering means for .
5 collectively entering a group of previously defined setting templates into the setting template storing means.

3. A communication setting management system including a plurality of management domains each having at least one
10 communication entity, the domains existing via a network,

wherein a communication setting management apparatus is disposed in each of the plurality of management domains, and the communication setting management apparatus disposed in a corresponding management domain imparts, on a management
15 domain basis, a different communication characteristics setting to communications between communication entities belonging to different management domains, the setting being managed on a corresponding management domain basis.

20 4. The communication setting management system according to claim 3, wherein

the communication setting management apparatus includes:

setting template entry/edit means for entering or
25 editing a setting template that collects contents to be set for the communication entities, with reference to information on a concrete method of setting the communication entities;

setting template storing means for storing the setting template entered or edited by the setting template entry/edit means;

5 application rule entry/edit means for entering or editing application rules prescribing rules of which setting template is to be applied to a communication having what kind of attribute;

10 application rule storing means for storing the application rule entered or edited by the application rule entry/edit means; and

15 retrieval and response function means for selecting a corresponding application rule from the application rule storing means in accordance with the attribute of a destination communication entity to distribute the setting, reading a setting template having a setting template name specified by the application rule, from the setting template storing means, and distributing the read setting template to the communication entity.

20 5. The communication setting management system according to claim 4, further comprising:

a contradiction detection function unit for mutually interchanging information with a communication setting management apparatus disposed in the other management domain, and detecting a contradiction between the information and the setting template and the application rule of its own management domain.

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6. The communication setting management system according to claim 5, further comprising

a contradiction modification function unit for .

- 5 modifying a contradiction at the time when a contradiction is detected that a setting template or setting templates specified by the contradiction detection function unit according to the application rule are not coincident with each other.

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